Deep Sea Mining

1424. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what fresh activities if any, is Government proposing for deep sea mining so as to obtain optimal benefits from the ocean resources within our continental shelf area; and

(b) whether Government have obtained access to latest technology for deep sea mining, from Multinational companies, either through licensing on Joint Venture agreements etc?

THE MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Government has initiated design and development of a seabed mining system capable of operating up to water depth of 6000 m, in phases. In first phase, design and development of shallow bad mining system has been taken up.

(b) Technology for deep sea mining is still under development in various parts of the world.

Accident on Konkan Railway

1425. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rail accident on Konkan Railway on 22nd June, 2003 brought out certain disturbing practices on this new railway network of the country;

(b) whether track patrolling was not being done on this railway; and

(c) whether chart of passengers after the accident was not furnished by railway authorities to the passengers' relatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.